

# **Stakeholder Consultation Strategy:**

## **London Ashford Airport**

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## Foreword

In December 2003, the Government published its White Paper 'The Future of Air Transport', which provides a clear, national, strategic framework for the development of air travel over the next 30 years.

The White Paper recognises the potential for development at London Ashford Airport.(LAA). In common with airports across the country, LAA has submitted an updated Master Plan in accordance with Government guidelines. The Master Plan is an important public document, outlining the long term future of the airport and thus allowing Government, planning authorities, transport providers and local communities to understand how the growth in air traffic will affect them. LAA recognises the importance of consulting and listening to a wide range of stakeholders over its plans and considerable consultation has taken place over the last 2 years. As LAA moves closer to submitting planning applications it was considered that it would be helpful to provide further opportunities for consultation and this document outlines how you can get involved.

We are committed to open, clear and effective communications with our stakeholders and partners and value your input. If you have any comments on this document, please let me know.

**Zaher Deir**

Managing Director, London Ashford Airport Limited

### References

Guidance on the Preparation of Airport Master Plans – Department [http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_aviation/documents/page/dft\\_aviation\\_031530.hcsp](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_aviation/documents/page/dft_aviation_031530.hcsp)

The Future of Air Transport White Paper – Department for Transport [http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_aviation/documents/divisionhomepage/029650.hcsp](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_aviation/documents/divisionhomepage/029650.hcsp)

## **Introduction**

In December 2003, Government outlined proposals for growth at airports around the UK. 'The Future for Air Transport' White Paper recognizes the potential for development at London Ashford Airport (LAA).

In July 2004, Government published 'Guidance on the Preparation of Airport Master Plans', in which they challenged airport operators to publish a Master Plan by the end of 2005 outlining how each airport intends to deliver Government policy. LAA has met this challenge.

LAA has been going through a programme of development over the last 2-3 years to modernize its facilities and is set to fulfill its potential as a regional Airport over the next 10 years. Consultation has taken place extensively with various stakeholders over the last 2 years (see Appendix A and Appendix B). The Airport intends to continue informing, consulting and listening through its Consultative Committee and also through organizing public meetings, giving presentations and publishing information on its plans.

The timetable outlined in this document illustrates our programme for delivery and how you can get involved.

Airport development is very important to the wider community. The airport has the potential to become a major economic driver for South Kent and East Sussex and will stimulate employment, regeneration and wealth creation.

## **Working in Partnership**

This Strategy has been specifically designed to ensure that local communities and key stakeholders have further opportunities to input into the development plans for the Airport. We genuinely seek to incorporate views on how the airport might benefit the wider community in our plans.

## Our Commitments

LAA is keen to work closely with the surrounding communities as it develops. As the Airport fulfills its potential it will have an effect on people and its neighbours and as a responsible local business the airport would like to take account of local views and feedback where possible.

We commit to:

- ensuring that our ongoing consultation has a wide reach and remit – involving those who live close to the airport or are affected by its operations, business partners, key stakeholders and those who rely on the airport for employment;
- listening to all concerns and comments. We will consider all feedback to our proposals and where possible incorporate them into our plans. Where this is not possible we will attempt to minimise and/or mitigate any negative impacts;
- working closely with local bodies and organisations – we will listen closely to representatives to try and reflect local views; and
- feeding back changes and updates – we will ensure that we let people know how their comments have been considered.

## Government Guidance

LAA supports the Government's consultation objectives as outlined in PPS12 – Local Development Frameworks:

- A) Community involvement that is appropriate to the level of planning. Arrangements need to be built on a clear understanding of the needs of the community and to be fit for purpose;
- B) Front loading of involvement. There should be opportunities for early community involvement and a sense of ownership of local policy decisions;
- C) Using methods of involvement which are relevant to the communities concerned;
- D) Clearly articulated opportunities for continuing involvement as part of a continuous programme, not a one off event;
- E) Transparency and accessibility; and
- F) Planning for involvement. Community involvement should be planned into the process for the preparation and revision of documents.

## The London Ashford Airport Master Plan

Airport Master Plans are documents which allow airport operators to explain how they propose to take forward the framework outlined in the White Paper. They are designed to inform the regional and local planning processes and encourage engagement with stakeholders and the wider community.

The plan does not have any statutory basis and is not a planning application. It provides a map of future growth at the airport to be considered in local and regional planning processes.

The LAA Master Plan aims to:

- look at proposals up to 2015; and
- in the longer term (2015-2030), look at how growth may be accommodated in terms such as land use.

This approach realistically takes into account that proposals in the longer term are likely to bring with them uncertainties that are prevalent in the industry.

The Master Plan is a 'living document'. It will be reviewed and updated at regular intervals to ensure that it continues to reflect and inform regional and local plans, whilst remaining sufficiently flexible to respond to fluctuations in demand.

LAA completed its Aviation Master Planning Study in December 2003. Since that time some important developments have taken place. These include the resurfacing of the runway, new ILS & AGL, a new ATC tower to serve the airport's needs in the short term, the construction of a new aircraft parking apron and improvements to the access road and car parking facilities. Also improvements have been made to terminal buildings and to hanger facilities.

The Master Plan has therefore been reviewed taking these developments into account.

The airport plans to expand its operations to enable it to handle 2 million passengers a year by 2015. This expansion will be phased gradually over this period and will involve further upgrading to its facilities including a runway extension and new terminal facilities. Details of the planned location of the proposed facilities are shown at Appendix C. Further detailed information will be given at the forthcoming public presentations.

### Runway Extension

It is proposed to extend the runway from 1505m by 294m plus 150m as a starter extension. A total of 1949m. The largest aircraft currently operating at the airport is the B737 family or similar aircraft size.

### New Control Tower, RFF and Training Area

### Passenger Facilities

## Planning Applications

LAA recognizes that its development must follow the requirements set out in national, regional and local plans and to this end it has committed to undertaking extensive environmental and traffic impact assessments. This work is now drawing to its conclusion and at forthcoming public meetings relevant information will be presented.

## Consultation and Development undertaken so far

The timetable maps out the development of the Airport and its preparations to December 2005.

### January to December 2003

- Scoping of the potential for modernizing the Airport and consultation with key statutory and business stakeholders. In December 2003 LAA identified as having potential for development in the Government White Paper, "The Future of Air Transport".

### January 2004 to December 2005

- Further consultation with key statutory and business stakeholders on development plans. Engagement of technical advisors to enable work to commence on environmental impact assessment of any plans for development. Scoping study submitted to the District Council and consultation undertaken with statutory consultees. Scoping opinion received.
- Environmental impact assessment work underway and consultation with statutory stakeholders being undertaken.
- Revision undertaken on LAA's plan for development.
- Regularly issuing press statements to local and regional media.
- Undertaking interviews on radio and TV explaining the Airport's plans.
- Attending local and regional conferences to business explaining the Airport's plans and seeking opinions.
- Regularly working with statutory consultees on the progress of the Airport's development plans and the environmental impact assessment study.

- Development of a LAA website.
- Providing information to a number of local groups on the Airport's plans.
- Issuing the Master Plan for the Airport for public consultation and seeking views on its content before it is finalized.
- Establishing a public transport forum examining a number of issues but including the long term aim of providing a rail link from Lydd to Ashford.
- Resurfacing of runway and hard standing areas with new lighting installed. Recladding of hangars. Refurbishment of exteriors to terminal buildings. Introduction of new executive terminal building for FAL Aviation. Resurfacing and realigning of car parks. Commencement of office refurbishment scheme.
- Public meetings held and presentations given.
- Consultations with business groups, SEEDA, Government Office, and other statutory bodies over the Airport's plans.
- Introduction of an Air Traffic Control Service after 9 years of only offering an information service.
- Upgrading of Airport fire engines.
- Launch of 'Landings', the Airport's new magazine.
- Regular consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defense
- Consultation with potential Airport and Airline partners
- Undertaking significant marketing activity
- A list of key dates when stakeholder consultation was undertaken on the airports plans are shown at appendix A.

## Your Opportunity for Further Consultation and future plans

### April 2006 to December 2006

1. Eight public meetings and presentations will be undertaken at the Airport and in parts of Shepway, Ashford and East Sussex once every week during April and May. The locations and dates will be advertised in the press. These will include:
  - New Romney
  - Hythe
  - Folkestone
  - Ashford
  - Rye
2. Visits to clubs, societies and local organizations explaining the Airport's plans and seeking views.
3. Issuing a newsletter to key stakeholders and local residents keeping them informed of the Airport's plans and explaining how they can be involved/seeking their views (at least 3 editions).
4. Working with the Airport Consultative Committee and seeking their views on a wide range of issues.
5. Following the public consultation events, completion of the environmental and traffic impact assessments and submission of planning applications to Shepway District Council will undertake its statutory consultation on the planning applications.
6. Introduction of a new instrument landing system with an offset non-directional beacon.
7. Subject to gaining planning approval, building a new runway extension.
8. Holding of Lydd Air show.
9. An exhibition display will be on view at the airport for the benefit of the public from April onwards.

In addition to public consultation, there will be continued dialogue with representatives of the principal airline users and business partners, the Department for Transport and the ODPM, the Government Office for the South East, the South East of England Development Agency, the local planning/highway authorities, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency, the Strategic Rail Authority other statutory consultees.

## January 2007 and On-Going

The Airport is committed to on-going stakeholder consultation as a good neighbour to the community.

## Our Commitments

London Ashford Airport Ltd will ensure:

- materials used and distributed during the consultation are easily accessible and understandable to the local community as a whole;
- all feedback is genuinely considered by the airport;
- no group or section of the community feels excluded from the consultation process;

## Your Feedback

This strategy outlines our approach to ongoing consultation and your feedback is important. We are keen to ensure that the information reaches the widest relevant audience possible. In order to achieve this, please feel free to give us your suggestions on how we could broaden our consultation.

### **Please send any comments to:**

London Ashford Airport Limited  
Lydd Airport  
Kent  
TN29 9QL

Email: [zaher.deir@lydd-airport.co.uk](mailto:zaher.deir@lydd-airport.co.uk)

This document can be found on our website [www.lydd-airport.co.uk](http://www.lydd-airport.co.uk). Further copies are available on request.

## Appendix A Previous Consultation Activity

Consultation dates and activities over the last two years:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>April 2004</b>	SEEDA	Lydd Airport
	Shepway DC	Lydd Airport
	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	Shepway DC	Lydd Airport
	Government Office for the South East	Lydd Airport
	NDA stakeholder workshop	Ashford International Hotel
<b>May 2004</b>	Airport Consultative Committee	Lydd Airport
	Airports 2004 conference	London
	Ministry of Defence	Lydd Airport
	EBASE	Geneva
<b>June 2004</b>	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	Environmentalists	Lydd Airport
	KCC	Lydd Airport
	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	CAA	Lydd Airport
	Michael Howard MP	Folkestone
Channel Chamber of Commerce	Lydd Airport	
<b>July 2004</b>	Council of Le Touquet	Lydd Airport
<b>August 2004</b>	Kent Partnership	Lydd Airport
	Kent Police	Lydd Airport
	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Folkestone
<b>September 2004</b>	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	EBAA	Biggin Hill
	Lydd Town Council	Lydd Airport
	Channel Chamber of Commerce Business Show	Folkestone
	Michael Howard MP and Channel Chamber of Commerce	Lydd Airport
<b>October 2004</b>	English Nature/RSPB	Lydd Airport
	AOA Annual Conference	Cardiff
	New Romney Town Council	Lydd Airport
	Kent County Council	Lydd Airport
	Shepway District Council	Lydd Airport
	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Lydd Airport
	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	Michael Howard MP	Lydd Airport
Lydd Town Council	Lydd Airport	
<b>November 2004</b>	English Nature	Lydd Airport
<b>December 2004</b>	Airport Consultative Committee	Lydd Airport
	Ashford Futures and Government	Lydd Airport
	Lydd Town Council	Lydd Airport

<u>Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>January 2005</b>	Public	Lydd Airport
<b>February 2005</b>	Rotary Club	Rose & Crown
	Southlands School	Southlands School, New Romney
<b>March 2005</b>	AOA	Hilton Park Lane, London
	Public of Lydd	Lydd Airport
	Dymchurch Parish Council	Dymchurch
	Invicta Radio	Le Touquet
	Kent County Council	Maidstone
	Public	Greatstone
	Meridian TV	Lydd Airport
	Airport Consultative Committee	Lydd Airport
	Dymchurch Parish Council	Lydd Airport
<b>April 2005</b>	Delegation of local residents in support of Airport	Lydd Airport
	Local residents	Lydd Airport
	Public Presentation	Lydd Airport
	Public Presentation	Lydd Airport
<b>May 2005</b>	Greatstone School Governors	Lydd Airport
	IEA Conference	London
	SEEDA/Ashford Futures	Lydd Airport
	EBACE	Geneva
	Friends of Lydd Airport Group	George Hotel, Lydd
	Shepway District Council	Lydd Airport
	Forge Arts	Lydd Airport
<b>June 2005</b>	Shepway District Council	Lydd Airport
	Channel Rotary Club	Folkestone
	FLAG	George Hotel, Lydd
	Public meeting	New Romney
	Public meeting	Dymchurch
	Dungeness Power Station	Dungeness Power Station
	Friends of Lydd Airport Group	George Hotel, Lydd
<b>July 2005</b>	Mayor of Lydd	Le Touquet
	Public meeting	Town Hall, Hythe
	Kent County Council	Lydd Airport
	Invicta Radio	Lydd Airport
	Flight International	Lydd Airport
	RSPB	Lydd Airport
	Community Rail	Lydd Airport
	Kent Fire Brigade	Lydd Airport
	Public meeting	Assembly Rooms, Dymchurch
	Key Stakeholders	Lydd Airport

<u>Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>August 2005</b>	FLAG	Lydd Airport
	Public Consultation	Lydd Airport
	LAAG	Hythe
	Alan Peford	Lydd Airport
	Leader of East Sussex County Council	Lydd Airport
<b>September 2005</b>	Dungeness Power Station	Lydd Airport
	Bishop of Maidstone and Priest of Lydd	Lydd Airport
	FLAG	George Hotel, Lydd
	Channel Business to Business Conference	Folkestone
	LARA	Lydd Airport
	Shepway District Council	Lydd Airport
	Language School	Lydd Airport
	Airport Consultative Committee	Lydd Airport
Routes	Copenhagen	
<b>October 2005</b>	Regeneration Secretaries	Lydd Airport
	Kingston University	Lydd Airport
	Invicta Chamber of Commerce	Folkestone
	Dungeness Power Station	Lydd Airport
	New Romney Town Council	Lydd Airport
	Michael Howard MP	Lydd Airport
	CAA	Lydd Airport
	Wealden Group	Tenterden
<b>November 2005</b>	NBAA	USA
	FLAG	George Hotel, Lydd
	Dubai Airshow	Dubai
	Kent Fire Brigade	Lydd Airport
<b>December 2005</b>	Friends of Lydd Airport Group	George Hotel, Lydd
	Channel Corridor Partnership	Lydd Airport
	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Lydd Airport
	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Hythe Imperial Hotel, Hythe
	Kent Fire Brigade	Lydd Airport
	English Nature	Lydd Airport
	Literary Festival celebration	Folkestone
	Friends of Lydd Airport Group	Lydd Airport
<b>January 2006</b>	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	KM Business Group	Ashford
	Lydd Church	Lydd Church
	FLAG	Lydd
	Airport Consultative Committee	Lydd Airport
	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
<b>February 2006</b>	Environment Agency	Lydd Airport
	Romney Enterprise Gateway	Lydd Airport
	FLAG	Lydd
	Lydd Town Council	Lydd Airport
	Invicta Chamber of Commerce	Ashford

## **Appendix B List of Stakeholder Organisations**

The following bodies, groups and individuals have been/are being and will continue to be consulted as part of London Ashford Airport's Master Plan.

### **County Councils**

Kent County Council  
East Sussex County Council

### **Borough/District Councils**

Ashford Borough Council  
Shepway District Council  
Rother District Council  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Wealden District Council  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Hastings Borough Council

### **Town/Parish Councils**

Lydd Town Council  
New Romney Town Council  
Hythe Town Council  
Brenzett Parish Council  
Brookland Parish Council  
Burmarsch Parish Council  
Dymchurch Parish Council  
Ivychurch Parish Council  
Newchurch Parish Council  
St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council  
Old Romney Parish Chairman  
Snargate Parish Chairman

### **MPs**

Mr Michael Howard MP  
(Conservative, Folkestone and Hythe)  
Mr Damien Green MP  
(Conservative, Ashford)

### **MEPs**

Mr Daniel John Hannan MEP (Conservative, South East region)  
Mr Nigel Farage MEP (UKIP, South East region)  
Mr Niranjana Deva MEP (Conservative, South East region)  
Mr Christopher Huhne MEP (Liberal Democrat, South East region)  
Mr Peter Skinner MEP (Labour, South East region)  
Mr James Ellis MEP (Conservative, South East region)

**MEPs (Continued)**

Mr Ashley Mote MEP (UKIP, South East region)  
Mr Richard Ashworth MEP (Conservative, South East region)  
Ms Caroline Lucas MEP (Green, South East region)  
Baroness Nicholson MEP (Liberal Democrat, South East region)

**Statutory Bodies, Business  
Partners and Non-Governmental  
Organisations**

Airport Operators Association  
Airport Operators Committee  
Association of British Travel Agents  
Invicta and Channel Chambers of Commerce  
Channel Corridor Area Investment Partnership  
CBI  
CPRE – Kent  
Civil Aviation Authority  
Country Landowners Association  
Countryside Agency  
Dungeness Power Stations  
South East of England Development Agency  
South East of England Regional Assembly  
Emergency services  
English Heritage  
English Nature (Kent)  
Environment Agency  
Footpaths Association  
Friends of the Earth  
Government Office for the South East of England  
Greenpeace  
Institute of Directors  
LAA Consultative Committee  
Shepway and Kent Local Strategic Partnerships  
Folkestone and Ashford Town Centre Management Groups  
Department of Transport  
Ministry of Defence  
National Energy Foundation  
National Express  
National Federation of Bus Users  
National Travellers Action Group  
Network Rail  
Rail Passenger Committee  
Road Haulage Association  
RSPB  
Stagecoach